

Did you know that for every dollar spent on mitigation, approximately four dollars are saved in **reduced losses**, according to an independent study conducted by the National Institute of Building Sciences?

There are things you can do now to reduce damage from high winds and water. Some are fairly simple and inexpensive; others will require a professional contractor. You'll need to consider the characteristics of your home, your financial resources and local building regulations via the St. Charles Parish Department of Planning and Zoning. This homeowner's checklist will help you learn what you can do.

INFORMATION YOU NEED

Do you have enough flood insurance?

Even if you have taken steps to protect your home from flooding, you still need flood insurance. Home owners' policies do not cover flood damage, so you will need to purchase a separate policy under the National Flood Insurance Program. For more information, visit floodsmart.gov.

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM HIGH WINDS

Is the roof sheathing properly installed?

During a hurricane, wind forces are carried from the roof down, to the exterior walls, down to the foundation. Homes can be damaged when wind forces are not properly transferred. Roof sheathing (the boards or plywood nailed to the roof rafters or trusses) can fail during a hurricane if not properly installed. Examine the sheathing from the attic. If many of the nails have missed the rafters, you may need to re-nail the sheathing.

Are end gables securely fastened to the rest of the roof?



In a hurricane, the side walls of the roof (end gables) take a real beating and can collapse. Gable bracing often consists of 2x4s placed in an "X" pattern at both ends of the attic: From the top center of the end gable to the bottom of the brace of the fourth truss, and from the bottom center of the end gable to the peak of the roof. If your end gables do not appear to be braced, use a licensed contractor to install bracing.

Are double entry doors secured at the top and bottom?

The exterior walls, doors and windows are the protective shell of your home. If the shell is broken during a hurricane, high winds can enter the home and put pressure on the roof and walls, causing serious damage. For each double door, at least one of the doors should be secured at both the top of the door frame and the floor with sturdy sliding bolts. Most bolts that come with double doors, however, are not strong enough to withstand high winds. Your local hardware store can help you select the proper bolts.

Has the garage door been properly secured?

If the garage door fails, winds can enter your home and blow out doors, windows, walls and the roof.

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM HIGH FLOODING

Is the main electric panel board located above potential flood waters?

The main electric panel board should

be at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation for your home. (To find this information, contact the St. Charles Parish Department of Planning and Zoning at (985) 783-5060.) The panel board height is regulated by code. All electrical work should be done by a licensed electrician.

Are electric outlets and switches located above potential flood waters?

Consider elevating all electric outlets, switches, light sockets, baseboard heaters and wiring at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation for your home. You may also want to elevate electric service lines (at the point they enter your home) at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation. In areas that could get wet, connect all receptacles to a ground fault interrupter (GFI) circuit to avoid the risk of shock or electrocution. Have electrical wiring done by a licensed electrician.

Does the sewer system have a backflow valve?

If flood waters enter the sewer system, sewage can back up and enter your home. To prevent this, have a qualified, licensed plumber install an interior or exterior backflow valve.

Are the air conditioner and water heater above potential flood waters?

The water heater can be placed on masonry blocks or concrete at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation, moved to inside a floodwall or moved to a higher floor. Outside air conditioning compressors, heat pumps or package units (single units that include a furnace and air conditioner) can be placed on a base of masonry, concrete or pressure-treated lumber. All work must conform to state and local building codes.

(Information courtesy the Federal Emergency Management Agency)

St. Charles Parish offers numerous ways for citizens to stay informed during hurricanes and other emergencies:



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS: (985) 783-5050

WEB SITE: stcharlesparish-la.gov

Click on 'Emergency Alert System' to sign up for e-mail, phone and text alerts directly from St. Charles Parish EOC. Go to 'E-Newsletters' at stcharlesparish-la.gov/enews to sign up for community news, including emergency press releases, road closures and other important notifications. Start here to link to our blog at stcharlesgov.blogspot.com.

GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNEL: Cox Cable Channel 6

Available to St. Charles Parish Cox Cable subscribers.

EMERGENCY RADIO: 1370 AM

Tune in for emergency information during storm threats and their aftermaths.

TWITTER: twitter.com/stcharlesgov

Follow us for text updates during emergencies direct to your Twitter feed.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: youtube.com/stcharlesgov

View the latest video from St. Charles Parish during and after the storm.

TOLL-FREE INFORMATION LINE: 1-888-SCP-9EOC

Call this line for recorded information during emergencies and community information such as sports and meeting schedules.

STAY CONNECTED.

ATTENTION SPECIAL NEEDS RESIDENTS!

If you will require **assistance evacuating**, please contact the St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations Center immediately at (985) 783-5050.

St. Charles Parish

P.O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057



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INSIDE:

Evacuation Routes
Emergency Supply Kit
Protecting Your Home

Parish Contact Info
Assisted Evacuation
Info for Pet Owners
Power Line Safety
Special Needs

Hurricane Season 2009 BE PREPARED.



As we prepare to enter the most active portion of the 2009 Atlantic Hurricane Season, please take a moment to review the information in this 2009

St. Charles Parish Hurricane Preparedness Brochure.

While forecasters are calling for a less active season this year, St. Charles Parish remains uniquely vulnerable to even Category 2 and 3 storms.

Last year's storms proved that vulnerability. Gustav, which made landfall to our West in Terrebonne Parish, created massive and lengthy power outages and caused widespread wind damage.

Ike, a more powerful storm that made landfall hundreds of miles away in Texas, poured storm surges over Highway 90 and into the streets of Willowridge, Montz and Bayou Gauche Island.

That being said, we were lucky in 2008.

With over 330 miles of shoreline and low elevations, we are surrounded by major waterways. Those waterways make our parish an industrial powerhouse and recreational playground, but they can be sources of devastation during hurricanes.

We are well on our way to

securing a permit to build a West Bank Hurricane Protection Levee, and the Corps of Engineers is in the process of raising the East Bank Protection Levee to 100-year storm levels.

But even with the current levee protection, St. Charles Parish residents need to be prepared for storm threats.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns. We want to help you be as safe and prepared as possible this storm season.

Thank you,

V.J. St. Pierre Jr., Parish President



WWW.STCHARLESPARISH-LA.GOV/HURRICANE

IF YOU CAN STAY HOME...

- Offer your home as shelter to friends or relatives who live in vulnerable areas or mobile homes.
- Check your disaster supply kit (right). Make sure you have at least a 2-week supply of food and water.
- Protect windows and glass doors with plywood/shutters. Secure boats.
- Stay inside and away from windows.
- If you lose power, turn off major appliances, such as the air conditioner and water heater, to reduce damage.
- If flooding threatens your home, turn off electricity at the main breaker.
- Avoid using the phone.
- Clear your yard of potential flying debris, e.g. lawn furniture, potted plants, bicycles and trash cans.
- Open refrigerators sparingly.
- Listen for advisories about tap water and sewer usage.

IF THE PARISH CALLS A MANDATORY EVACUATION...

- Take the precautions listed above.
- Shut off water, gas and electricity at the main source and lock up.
- Fuel and service family vehicles.
- Use recommended evacuation routes (right). Be sure to leave early.
- Take along needed items in your survival kit, especially important papers, extra clothing and food and water.
- Bring personal hygiene items (toothbrush, deodorant, etc.) and sleeping bags, pillows and blankets.
- Know where you are going and get in touch with family members outside the affected region with your plans.
- For those with no transportation, see this page for St. Charles Parish's Assisted Evacuation Plan.
- Do NOT leave your pets at home. Pack a pet evacuation kit (right).

GET ANSWERS.

Entergy: 1-800-ENTERGY
ATMOS Energy: 1-888-286-6700

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Store all items in a waterproof container.

WATER: One gallon per person per day for 2 weeks.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD: 2-week supply of ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables, canned juices, energy bars, vitamins, peanut butter, nuts, crackers and canned soups

CLOTHING: Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person. Include rain gear and sturdy shoes or work boots, as well as sunglasses and hats and gloves.

FIRST AID SUPPLIES: Bandages, antiseptic, tape, compresses, non-aspirin pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication.

TOOLS AND EMERGENCY SUPPLIES:
Emergency manual
Flashlight / batteries
Non-electric can opener
Utility knife
Duct tape
Matches in waterproof box
Plastic storage containers
Battery-operated radio
Mosquito repellant / citronella candles

PET EVACUATION KIT

- Make sure each animal has a current rabies vaccine, license, tags, collar, leash and carrier.
- Have food and water for your animals for at least seven days and enough medication for two weeks.
- Animal Control recommends you microchip your animal in case you and your pet are disconnected.
- Search out animal-friendly hotels to stay in, and bring current vet records in case

Camera and film, batteries
Coolers for food and ice
Toilet paper, paper towels towelettes
Cash or traveler's checks
Fire extinguisher - Small canister ABC type
Paper cups, plates, utensils
DOTD LA highway map
Plastic sheeting
Needles and thread
Pliers
Signal flare
Paper and pencil
Medicine dropper
Water purification - Chlorine tablets, iodine

SPECIAL ITEMS: Infant and medical supplies, supplies for elderly or disabled, 2-week supply of prescription medicines

ENTERTAINMENT: Games and books

IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS:
Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
Passports, social security cards and immunization records
Bank account numbers
Credit card account numbers and company addresses
Inventory of valuable household goods and important telephone numbers
Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)

- of emergency.
- Get a copy of your animals' current vet records to bring with you in case of emergency.
- If your animal does not travel well, check with your vet about medicines to ease your pet's anxiety.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR ANIMALS BEHIND!

For more information, please contact SCP Animal Control at (985) 783-5010.

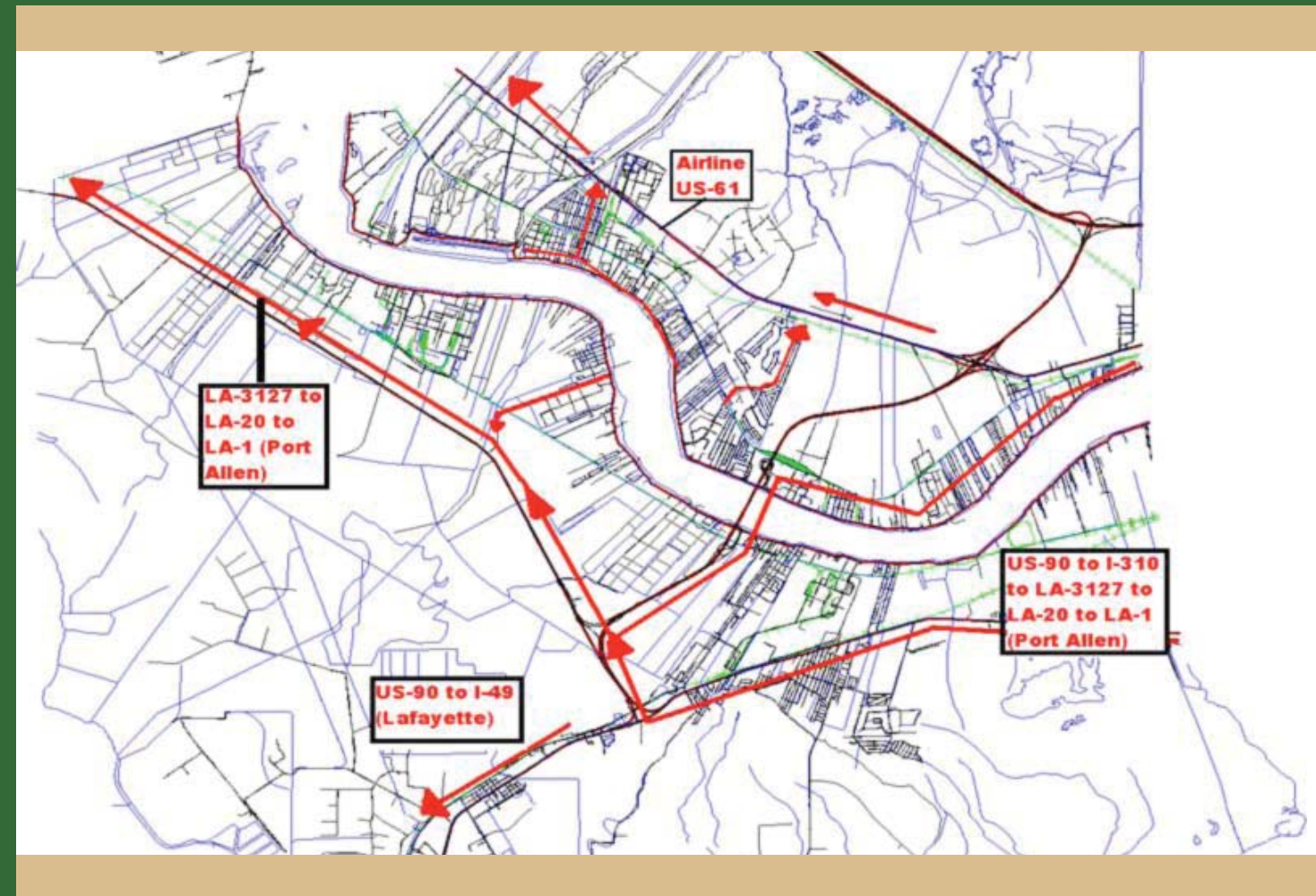
Cox Cable: 504-304-8444
LA State Police: 1-800-469-4828
Red Cross: 1-866-GET-INFO
FEMA: 1-800-621-FEMA

SCP Hospital: 985-785-6242
Lafourche Parish: 985-637-5195
St. John Parish: 985-652-2222
Jefferson Parish: 504-349-5360

EVACUATE.

If the parish calls for a mandatory evacuation, both sides of the river will be asked to leave at the same time. According to the state contraflow plan, once contraflow has started you will not be able to access I-10 from I-310. St. Charles Parish will evacuate 40 hours prior to the onset of tropical storm force winds.

Delays on the I-310 interchange connecting to I-10 West may be heavy. Expect local traffic to be heavy as well, especially LA 48 (East Bank River Road), U.S. 61 (Airline Hwy.) and U.S. 90. The state will set up information points for evacuees re-entering Louisiana on nine major Interstates and highways. Visit stcharlesparish-la.gov/hurricane and click on 'STATE



RE-ENTER.

St. Charles Parish uses an open re-entry approach. This practice allows all residents and business owners access as soon as authorities deem it safe to enter and move about.

However, if a storm has caused significant damage, it may be necessary to allow access to essential personnel, such first

GUIDE' to view the list.

EAST BANK: Residents living on the East Bank should evacuate north following U.S. 61 to the I-10 and I-55 interchanges, taking I-55 through Hammond. An alternate route is to take LA-48 to I-310 south to LA 3127 north, turn onto LA 70 East then left on LA 3089. From here you are able to take either I-10 west to Baton Rouge or LA 1 to West Baton Rouge.
WEST BANK: Residents living on the West Bank are encourage to evacuate west on U.S. 90 to Lafayette then north on I-49. An alternate route is to take LA 18 to I-310 south to LA 3127 north, turn onto LA 70 east then left on LA 3089. From here you are able to take either I-10 west to Baton Rouge or LA1 north to West Baton Rouge.

Please become familiar with state highways as Interstates will be difficult to travel.

responders and cleanup crews ONLY.

St. Charles Parish authorities understand that it is important for those with assets in our parish to return quickly. The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department and Department of Emergency Preparedness will make every effort to allow all residents back as quickly as possible following a storm-related evacuation.

Please stay tuned to local media outlets and the parish Web site at stcharlesparish-la.gov for up-to-date re-entry information.

GET ASSISTANCE.

The St. Charles Parish Assisted Evacuation Plan is meant for those persons without transportation who do not have special needs and their companion animals.

USE OF ASSISTED EVACUATION SHOULD ABSOLUTELY BE A LAST OPTION.

Residents should first work with neighbors, family, friends and social networks to secure transportation out of the parish in the event of a mandatory evacuation.

THOSE WISHING TO USE ASSISTED EVACUATION: Should register with St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations NOW. Please call (985) 783-5050 24/7 and speak to the emergency coordinator on duty. Pick-up by school bus will begin

4 hours after a mandatory evacuation order is issued.

Evacuees will be staged at the West Bank Bridge Park in Luling.

Evacuees will be transported to the parish's shelter site outside of the storm surge area.

PETS SHOULD HAVE:
Collar, name tag and leash
Pet carrier
Food (3+ days)
Water (3+ days)
Rabies vaccination papers

PLEASE BRING:
• **ONE BAG PER PERSON**
• Personal medications (Medications will not be available at the shelter)
• Personal / Comfort Foods
• Comfortable Clothing
• Needed toiletry items
• Books and games for the kids
• Pillows and blankets

LEARN ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE.

A \$1 million federal Hazard Mitigation Program grant will fund an automated **bar screen cleaning system** at the Cousins Canal Pump station in Luling, ensuring the pump can run at optimum levels during storm events.

The St. Charles Parish Council in October 2008 approved contracts with two experienced firms to spearhead land acquisition for Phase II of the

West Bank hurricane protection levee, which will protect the Mimosa, Lakewood and Willowdale areas of Luling.

The parish has invested in 5,000 feet of **HESCO Baskets** for flood fights in vulnerable areas, such as Des Allemands and Bayou Gauche. The durable sand-filled baskets stand 4 feet tall and are easy to set up.



**St. Charles Parish Council • Carolyn K. Schexnaydre, At-Large Division A
Terry Authement, At-Large Division B • Billy Raymond Sr., District I • Shelley Tastet, District II
Wendy Benedetto, District III • Paul J. Hogan PE, District IV • Larry Cochran, District V
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This public document was published at a total cost of \$0.22 per copy, not including postage. Twenty-four thousand copies of this document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$5,209. This document was produced by the St. Charles Parish Office of Public Information to inform citizens of hurricane preparedness issues. Funds were approved by the Parish Council in the 2009 parish operating budget.

STAY SAFE.

- Stay away from downed power lines and areas of debris. Report downed lines immediately to Entergy at 1-800-ENTERGY, or call EOC at (985) 783-5050.
- Don't walk in flooded areas or standing water. Remember that wet tree limbs can conduct electricity.
- Look for electrical system damage once power is restored. If you see sparks, broken or frayed wires, or the smell of hot insulation is noticeable, turn off the electricity at either the main fuse box or circuit breaker.
- Stay alert for natural gas leaks. If you smell natural gas, or if you hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and leave the area immediately. Do not operate electrical switches. If possible, turn the outside main gas valve off and call the gas company from a neighbor's house.

For more safety tips, visit www.entergy-louisiana.com